GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3104
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
NON-AVAILABILITY OF LEUKERAN
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-availability of Leukeran an essential drug for Blood Cancer is causing great hardships to the patients;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include this drug in the list of essential drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the price control thereof has caused the pharmaceutical companies to stop production of the drug; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) The medicine namely Leukeran is marketed by M/s Glaxo Smithkline which is used in the treatment of blood cancer.The non availability of this medicine was reported by Drugs Controller, Delhi in December, 2002. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had raised the issue with M/s. Glaxo Smithkline.It was informed by the company that this medicine was being imported by them for sale in India. In view of low offtake of this medicine, the import and manufacture of this medicine has been suspended by the company. However, othelr medicines based on drug Cyclophosphamide, Ifosamide, Chlorambucil, etc. used in the treatment of cancer are available in the market.

The non-availability/stoppage of production of Leukeran cannot be attributed to the price control as medicine Leukeran is out of price control under DPCO, 1995.